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17—is proportionately large, just one third of the whole, and nearly as many more are known elsewhere only from Chile. Easter Island, smaller and farther out in the Pacific, can boast of but twelve species, five of them here recorded for the first time. Most of them are species of wide distribution in the tropics or at least on the islands and continental shores of the south Pacific, but two (one of them described as new) are endemic and one is known elsewhere only from Tahiti.³

American Fern Society

Partly, at least, because of the delay in issuing the last number of the JOURNAL and consequently in getting in the bills for 1920, not all of the officers' reports were ready at the time of going to press. It has been thought best to issue this number without waiting for them, thereby getting the JOURNAL back to schedule time, or near it, and to print all the reports together in the next number.

Susan Hubbell Bancroft (Mrs. Edward H.), of New York City, a member of the American Fern Society since 1916, died on February 11, 1920.

Mrs. Bancroft took up the scientific study of ferns after she was sixty years of age and continued it almost to the time of her death at nearly eighty. Her special love for ferns had been a life-long passion; and while never claiming to be more than an amateur, in these later years she made herself an authority on the ferns of the locality of her summer home, Greensboro, Vermont, and was the inspiring influence that started many others of the summer colony there in similar study.

³Christensen, Carl and Skottsberg, Carl. The Pteridophytes of the Juan Fernandez Islands. pp. 1-46, figs. 1-7, pls. 1-5. The Ferns of Easter Island. pp. 47-53, figs. 1-3. Upsala, 1920.

One of the features of Mrs. Bancroft's home, "Ramblewood," is a fern garden in which, enclosed in a stretch of wild woodland, over forty varieties of ferns grow in generous masses in a habitat as nearly as possible like that which they choose for themselves, whether dry or moist, on exposed slopes or in sheltered hollows, on rocks, in moss, or drooping over mossy logs.

Mrs. Bancroft's herbarium of ferns, including specimens from many parts of this and other countries, is on large mounts, 12×18 inches, and in addition to the usual scientific features, seeks to retain the beautiful curves and characteristics of the fronds as well as hints of the environment in which they grow—the marsh ferns rising from a fringe of pressed grasses—the fragilis from mosses, etc.

These characteristics of her fern garden and herbarium indicate how, to the collector's zest and the scientist's satisfaction in identification, she added an ardent love and tender reverence for these exquisite children of the wild.

In addition to the four items acknowledged in the last number, Mr. Christensen has presented to the Society copies of two of his other papers: *On a natural classification of the genus Dryopteris* and *Dryopteris species et varietates novae*.

The leaflets inclosed in this number will serve to acquaint members of the American Fern Society with the effort that is being made to increase the membership of the Society. Members are asked to cooperate by sending these to friends who are likely to be interested. If more can be used they may be obtained from any one of the committee,—Robert A. Ware, 246 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Carlotta C. Hall, 1615 La Loma Ave., Berkeley, Calif.; E. J. Winslow, Auburndale, Mass.

Change of address:

Dr. Walter Mendelson, 639 Church Lane, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.